

THE  
CHRISTIAN PRIEST.

A  
P O E M

Sacred to the MEMORY of the  
Truly Reverend, Learned, and Pious  
Dr. *SAMUEL CLARKE*,

Late Rector of St. *James's, Westminster*;

WITH  
His CHARACTER.

Address'd to the Gentlemen of the Vestry.

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*Remember ye once had a CLARKE!*

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L O N D O N:

Printed for B. CREAKE, in *Ferryman-Street*, over-against  
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106

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A  
POEM

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573  
HIS CHARACTER.

Address'd to the Gentlemen of the Ministry.

By SAMUEL CLARKE.



Printed for B. C. St. James's, Westminster.  
M.DCCCLXII.

*Clarke*

~~DEDICATION~~  
~~It is intended among all your~~  
~~Rectors. They all made in-~~  
~~terest to leave all his De-~~  
~~ces from his first coming a-~~  
~~mong You, who have loved the~~  
~~with You, being contented~~  
~~with the Portion God had al-~~  
~~located him~~

# VESTRY.

*Gentlemen,*

**W**HAT is here offer'd to  
Your Perusal, proceeds  
from no other Motive, than  
the just Merits of the Deceased.  
I doubt not but that you are  
sensible, that your Loss of Dr.  
CLARKE is the greatest You

A 2

ever

*Clarke*



## DEDICATION.

~~ever sustain'd among all your~~  
Rectors. They all made Interest to leave You; all his Desires, from his first coming among You, was to live and die with You; being contented with the Portion God had allotted him.

Some Compensation it would have been to You, could he have been succeeded by the very worthy Dean of Salisbury.

*Their Sentiments of Gospel-Truths the same.*

*Alike united in a Heavenly Flame.*

What



## DEDICATION.

What Place had the Honour of this Great Man's Birth, I know not; but I think Cambridge had that of his Education. I became first acquainted with him in the Year 1700, when he was joint Chaplain with Mr. Whiston to Dr. Moore, Bishop of Ely; of which good Prelate I shall give you this remarkable Particular: When those Pedlars in Divinity, call'd the Orthodox List, had drawn up a Presentment against Dr. CLARKE'S *Scripture Doctrine of the Trinity*, to the  
Con-

## DEDICATION

Convocation, after several Passings and Re-passings in both Houses, it was cook'd up at last into a Thing, call'd a Judgment against him as a Heretick. This poor Scroll being brought to the Bishop of Ely to sign, he refus'd it, with this Christian-like Answer: *I know not how soon God may call me to Judgment: But I too well know the Piety of Dr. CLARKE, to pass any Judgment against him.*

I shall add no more, but refer you to his Character hereunto annexed: Closing all with this Ob-

## DEDICATION.

Observation ; That *after the*  
*Way which his Enemies call*  
*Herefy, so worship I the God*  
*of my Fathers.*

R. W.

June 12. 1729.





DEDICATION

Observation That after the  
Way which his Enemies call  
Hereby, to worship I the God  
of my Fathers.

R. W.

June 12. 1729.



( 1 )

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A

P O E M

To the MEMORY of the  
Learned and Pious Dr. *CLARKE*.

*Non è vita, sed ex domo in domum videntur migrare.*

NEPOS.

**Y**E Sons of sacred Truth exalt your Lays,  
For Him who sung our Great Creator's Praise,  
His *Being*, and his *Attributes* made known \*,  
And in th' *Almighty Father*, prov'd the *Son*.

See His Sermons at Boyle's Lecture.

B

For

2      *The* CHRISTIAN PRIEST.

For School Distinctions, incoherent Schemes,  
By CLARKE are shewn to be meer sick Mens Dreams.  
Thick Clouds of Priestcraft by the *Word* dispell'd,  
And in the *Scripture-Light* \* his GOD beheld.  
The *Rule of Faith* he by no Doubts perplex,  
His Life was the best Comment on his Text.  
Rest then blest Soul! secure of deathless Fame,  
Thy Principles and Practices the same,  
The Character which *Chaucer* † whilom drew,  
(And as refin'd by *Dryden*) stands for You.

A Parish Priest was of the Pilgrim Train,  
An Awful, Rev'rend, and Religious Man;

\* The *Scripture Doctrine* of the Trinity.  
good Parson.

† His Character of a



## The CHRISTIAN PRIEST.

His Eyes diffus'd a venerable Grace,  
And Charity itself was in his Face.  
His Aspect nothing had of the severe, *from fear*  
But such a Face as promis'd him sincere:  
Nothing reserv'd, or sullen, was to see,  
But sweet Regards and pleasing Sanctity;  
Mild was his Accent, and his Action free.  
With Eloquence innate his Tongue was arm'd,  
*lov'd was*  
Tho' harsh the Precept, yet the Preacher charm'd,  
For, letting down the Golden Chain from high,  
He drew his Audience upward to the Sky;  
Appointing *Holy Hymns*\* to charm their Ears,  
A Musick more melodious than the Spheres.

\* The *Psalms* and *Hymns* used in St. James's Church are appropriated only to that Parish.

CLARKE preach'd the *Joys of Heaven*, and  
*Pains of Hell*,

And warn'd the Sinner with becoming Zeal;  
 But on Eternal Mercy lov'd to dwell.

He taught the *Gospel* \*, rather than the *Law*,  
 And forc'd Himself to drive, but lov'd to draw:  
 For, *Fear* but freezes Minds, but *Love*, like *Heat*,  
 Exhales the Soul sublime, to seek her native Seat.

To *Threats*, the stubborn Sinner oft is hard,  
 Wrapt in his Crimes, against the Storm prepar'd;  
 But when the milder Beams of *Mercy* play,  
 He melts, and throws his cumb'rous *Cloak* away.

Lightnings

\* See His Paraphrase on the Four Gospels.

## *The* CHRISTIAN PRIEST.

Lightnings and Thunder (Heaven's Artillery)

As Harbingers before th' Almighty fly :

Those but proclaim his Style, and disappear,

The stiller Sound succeeds ; and GOD is there.

The *Tythes*, his Parish freely paid, he took ;

But never *sue'd* or *curs'd* with *Bell and Book*.

Out, of his little, he had some to spare,

To feed the famish'd, and to clothe the bare ;

For mortify'd he was to that Degree,

A poorer than himself he would not see.

True Priests, *he said*, and Preachers of the Word,

Were only Stewards of their Sov'raign LORD.

Nothing was theirs ; but all the Publick Store,

Intrusted Riches to relieve the Poor.



Who, should they steal, for want of his Relief,  
He judg'd himself Accomplise with the Thief.  
Ever was he at hand, without Request,  
To serve the Sick, to succour the Distrest;  
Tempting on Foot alone, without Affright,  
The Dangers of a dark tempestuous Night.

All this our *Christian Priest* perform'd alone,  
Nor spar'd his Pains, for Curate he had none;  
Nor durst he trust Another with His Care:  
Nor rode Himself to *Paul's*, the publick Fair,  
To chaffer for Preferment, with his Gold,  
Where *Bishopricks* and *Sine-Cures* are sold.

But

*The* CHRISTIAN PRIEST

9

But duely watch'd his Flock by Night and Day,  
And from the prouling-*Wolf* redeem'd the Prey,  
And hungry sent the wily-*Fox* away.

The Proud he tame'd, the Penitent he cheer'd,  
Nor to rebuke the rich Offender fear'd;  
His *Preaching* much, but more his *Practice*  
wrought: *his* *About his advice*

(A Living Sermon of the Truths he taught)  
For this, by Rules severe, his Life he squar'd,  
That All might see the *Doctrine* which they heard;  
*For Priests*, he said, *are Patterns for the rest*;  
(The *Gold* of *Heaven*, who bear the *God* impress.)  
But when the precious Coin is kept unclean,  
The Sov'rain's Image is no longer seen;

If

6      *The* CHRISTIAN PRIEST.

If They be foul on whom the People trust,

Well may the baser Brass contract a Rust.

The *Prelate*, for his holy Life, CLARKE priz'd,

The Worldly-Pomp of Prelacy despis'd:

His *Saviour* came not with a gaudy Show,

Nor was his *Kingdom of the World below*;

Patience in Want, and Poverty of Mind,

These Marks of *Church* and *Churchmen* he design'd,

And Living taught, and Dying left behind.

The Crown he wore, was of the pointed Thorn,

In Purple he was Crucify'd, not Born.

They who contend for Place, and high Degree,

Are not *His* Sons, but those of *Zebedee*;

Not



## *The* CHRISTIAN PRIEST.

Not but he knew the Signs of Earthly-Pow'r,

Might well become *St. Peter's* Successor.

The holy Bishop holds a double Rein,

The Prince may keep his Pomp, the Fisher must be  
plain.

Such was our CLARKE, who shone with ev'ry Grace;

Reflecting, *Moses-like*, his Maker's Face.

God saw his Image lively was express,

And his own Work, as in Creation blest.

*Political Disputes* CLARKE laid aside,

And *Christian Ethicks* was the Cause he try'd.

to *The* CHRISTIAN PRIEST

The senseless Plea of Right by Providence,  
Invented was, by flatt'ring Priests, long since,  
And lasts no longer than the present Sway,  
But justifies the next that comes in play:  
The People's Right remains; let those who dare,  
Dispute their Pow'r when they the Judges are.  
He, through the Land, his Cure of Souls outstretch'd,  
And like a Primitive Apostle Preach'd:  
Still chearful, ever constant to his Call;  
By *Many* follow'd; lov'd by *Most*, admir'd by *All*.

Next, let us view him vers'd in Learning's Lore,  
The more you prove him here, he's lov'd the more.

Whether

Whether the *purser Classicks* \* be his Theme,

Or if he more illustrates *Newton's Scheme*;

In ev'ry Branch of Science still we find

The same Benevolence of Truth and Mind.

In Defence to his Virtues, I forbear

To shew what other Ecclesiasticks are.

This Brilliant is so spotless, and so bright,

He needs no Foil, but shines by his own proper Light.

N O W

*Mystery* no more shall keep us in Suspense,

The Road to *Reason* points the Way to Sense.

\* He has some Years since given us a fine Edition of *Caesar's Commentaries*; and lately, a new Version of *Homer's Iliad*. And both *Robault* and *Newton* stand indebted to Him.



H I S  
C H A R A C T E R.

**O**N *Saturday, May 17, 1729,* died  
the Reverend Dr. *SAMUEL*  
*CLARKE*, Rector of *St. James's,*  
*Westminster.* A MAN, whose Name will  
be had in everlasting Remembrance, for  
his pious Labours, in rescuing the *true*  
*Faith in Christ*, from that Darkness and  
Corruption, in which for so many Ages,  
even from the *Apostle's Days*, it had  
been hid and concealed, not only from  
the *Poor and Ignorant*, but from the *best*  
and *wisest Men*, among all *Sects of Chri-*  
*stians.* This he has done, in so plain  
and clear a Method, that the Great Truths  
of the *Gospel* are now so well understood,  
and

## HIS CHARACTER

and so universally received, throughout the Christian World, that upon the Foreheads of any of the Protestant Churches, shall no longer be written the Name, *MYSTERY*, which is that Name of *Antichrist*, the Church of Rome, and is the great *Support* of all her *Abominations*. To give the World a just Idea of this wonderful Man, is impossible. The *Writings*, which he has left behind him, do, indeed, breathe the very Soul and Temper of the Man: But yet, in his *Conversation*, there was something vastly beyond what any Words can express: He, who was himself a Prodigy in all the valuable Parts of Learning, was at the same Time an utter Stranger to every Passion, Vanity, Insolence, or Ostentation. He, who was insulted by so many worthless Wretches, who were resolv'd

## HIS CHARACTER.

to shut their Eyes against the Light of his strong Reasoning, was content to leave such to the Conviction of their own Minds. To others, who seem'd desirous to know the Truth, how sweet, easy, modest, inoffensive, and obliging, were all his Answers, and Defences, of what he thought it his Duty to publish in Pity and Compassion to Mankind, for so many Ages bewilder'd in Darkness and Corruption! Like many, too many, others, if he would have disguis'd the Truth, he might, like them, have died possess'd of Riches and Honours. But he chose rather to live and die in that low humble Station, in which the Providence of God had placed him; and I doubt not, but the same good Providence will raise up some Person, eminent for the same sweet, easy, charitable



## HIS CHARACTER.

Temper, he lived and died possess'd of, whose greatest Honour, it will be to alleviate the Sorrow of those he has left behind him.

The Bell only gave one Toll, and

A. C.

P. S. The Remains of this Good Man were, with great Decency and Privacy, deposited in the Chancel of St. James's Church, on Thursday the 22d of May, 1719, about 11 at Night.

Before the Corps went the Pew-Keepers, two by two; the Pall was supported by the six Readers of the Church, and two Chapels, who had Rings, Gloves, and Hat-Bands.

Next

## His FUNERAL

Next the Corps follow'd Dr. Sykes,  
Preacher Assistant, then the Church-  
Wardens, Vestry-Clerks, and several  
other Gentlemen of the Vestry and band

The Bell only gave one Tole, and  
ceas'd.

He died in the 54th Year of his Age.

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